TB cases in the country

2971. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest number of Turberculosis cases in the world;

(b) if so, the total number of people died due to Tuberculosis in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to reduce TB in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under National TB Control Programme deaths are not reported. It is estimated that about 5 lac patients die of TB every year.

(c) Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented in the country in a phased manner to achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. About 460 million population has already been covered under the Programme and it is envisaged to cover 800 million by the year 2004 and the entire country by 2005.

Deteriorating standard of medical colleges

2972. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the standard of medical colleges, in the country has been deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether to maintain the standard of medical colleges in the country, Government have contemplated any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds and other facilities provided to the medical colleges in the country during the last three years to maintain standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that the standard of medical colleges in the country is deteriorating. The Medical Council of India is empowered under the Indian Medical Council, 1956, to take necessary action to maintain the standard of medical education in the country. The Medical Colleges are advised by them to remove the deficiencies, if any, pointed out by the Council's Inspectors during their periodical inspections of infrastructure. The Central Government does not provided funds to the medical colleges in the country to maintain standard. However, under the orders of Supreme Court, subvention on account of fees is paid to private medical colleges at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per annum per student excluding students admitted against the NRI/foreign students quota.

Stringent laws to prevent sale of spurious drugs

2973. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for more stringent laws to prevent the sale of spurious and banned drugs in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to prevent the sale of spurious and banned drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, State Government have been empowered to enforce quality of durgs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious and banned drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drug. Manufacture and sale of spurious drug, if detected, is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to a term of the life and with fine